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**CONTACT:** Office of Representative Katie Edwards  
(954) 838-1371

**Rep. Katie Edwards Hails Passage of Florida Elections Law  
Broward Lawmaker Urges Governor to Sign HB 7013**

**PLANTATION, Fla.** – Following last week’s final vote on Florida’s omnibus elections bill, state Rep. Katie Edwards (D-Plantation) today called on legislative leaders to promptly submit House Bill 7013 to Governor Rick Scott and urged him to sign the bipartisan-backed measure.

House Bill 7013 takes aim at correcting voting problems, including long waiting lines, that occurred throughout much of Florida during the 2012 presidential election. Among other components, HB 7013, which won final legislative approval on Friday, increases the number of early voting hours and days, and expands the locations at which early voting can take place. It is widely seen as an antidote to a highly controversial election-suppression law that the Legislature passed in 2011.

Representative Edwards, who served on the House Ethics and Elections Subcommittee, was instrumental this session in advocating, along with both Democrats and Republicans on the committee, for key aspects of the bill. Edwards was particularly influential in stressing the need for expanding the number of early voting sites, and she fought for the inclusion of bill language that will require makers of voting equipment to properly disclose to elections authorities information pertaining to equipment defects.

“I am proud to have worked with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for the passage of legislation to help ensure fair and correct elections in Florida, and now, I believe it is imperative that the legislation be brought to the governor’s desk for his action,” said Representative Edwards. “While there’s still more work to be done to fix Florida’s elections system, I am confident that we have accomplished much during this session to help Floridians exercise their fundamental right to vote.”

Among key components of House Bill 7013, the measure:

- \* Expands early voting to a mandatory 64 hours over eight days, with an option on up to 168 hours over 14 days, from the prior minimum of 48 hours over 8 days with a maximum of 96 hours;

- \* Restores the option for communities hold “Souls to the Polls” voting on the Sunday before Election Day;

- \* Creates a process by which a voter who fails to sign his or her absentee ballot may cure the ballot and have their vote counted.

- \* Significantly expands the pool of locations available for early voting;
- \* Introduces requirements that vendors of voting systems disclose defects in their systems and provides penalties for failure to do so; and it
- \* Partially restores voters' long-standing ability, which had been thwarted by the 2011 voter-suppression law, to change their address on Election Day.

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Sent from:

**Mark Hollis**

Communications Director

**Democratic Office, Florida House of Representatives**

**tel:** 850-488-9622 | **cell:** 850-385-8573 | **email:** [mark.hollis@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:mark.hollis@myfloridahouse.gov)

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